

Mr. EDELEN. I was not aware of that, but supposed it had been rejected. Now one word in reference to what may be said about the hardship of this thing. That argument, it seems to me, is entirely met by the framer of this article when he provides that—

“All fines which may be collected for a violation of the provisions of this article, or any law which hereafter may be passed for the purpose of carrying the same into execution, shall be set apart and appropriated for the colonization or removal beyond the limits of the State, of such negroes and mulattoes and their descendants as may be in the State at the adoption of this Constitution, *and may be willing to emigrate.*”

There is not one word of compulsion in the article proposed to be incorporated into the organic law of the State. I think that although gentlemen from Baltimore city and other parts of the State may not be so deeply interested in this matter, as those of us are in other parts of the State, yet we established a precedent yesterday, in reference to the sale of real estate, and the action of Courts in relation thereto, which should govern us here. Though in my judgment that was entirely and purely a question of legislation, and not proper to be incorporated into the organic law, yet it was determined by a majority of this Convention that it was a proper subject to go to a committee for their consideration; and although gentlemen here may dissent from the views set forth in this proposition of the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) I think they should at least permit this order to go to the appropriate committee for the necessary consideration and reflection. I am myself serious about this thing, and just as much in earnest as the gentleman from Prince George's, although the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Abbott) has sought to engraft upon it an amendment not at all germane to it.

Mr. DANIEL. I rise not for the purpose of prolonging this discussion, but to bring it to a close. I am willing that this subject, as well as every other, should receive proper consideration. But it does seem to me that this is not a time to go into the merits of this question. I am free to say that I am opposed to the principle embodied in the proposition of the gentleman from Prince George's, and shall oppose its adoption when it comes to a vote, and may then have something to say upon it; but at this stage it is merely making a long discussion which must all be gone over again at another time, for whether this is referred to a committee or not, as the gentleman well says, he has the right to offer it by way of amendment, and then this discussion must necessarily be all gone over again; and then is the proper time to discuss it, and not now. I have therefore risen to move the previous question, in order to stop the debate at this time. I will say further that I intend to vote for this reference to the committee; I think it

is but respectful and proper that every question of this sort should go to a committee, especially as all other questions have gone to committees as a matter of reference; and I will vote to refer this, as I shall vote to refer any other proposition not disrespectful to this body. I now call for the previous question.

Mr. ABBOTT asked the gentleman to withdraw the call for the previous question for a few moments.

The demand for the previous question was accordingly withdrawn.

Mr. ABBOTT. I did not intend to offend the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) by doubting his —, I do not know what to call it hardly—in offering his order yesterday. After, however, listening very attentively to the debate of yesterday, I heard but one reason given by him why he wished this order to be referred to a committee. That reason was the great danger to which his constituents would be subjected, of being overrun by this class of persons, and the great destruction which, in his imagination, would follow. Now, if that be the case, I certainly have no objection to the committee examining into the subject. But I also wish to include other persons from whom we are liable to danger. I submit to the gentleman himself if there is not more danger to be apprehended from the class of people included in my amendment than there is from the negro. While the negro might steal your sheep, the other would steal your horse; while the one might take the life of a chicken, the other would take the life of your wife and child; while the one might steal a fence rail, the other would burn down your house. I ask the gentleman if that has not been the experience of people in the territory that has been under the control of the class of people to which my amendment refers. Now do not let us trifle with a small matter, when there is one so much greater in which we are all involved.

I say that we in Baltimore city are in no danger from this influx of labor. The gentleman may apprehend danger in his county, but we do not. But we do feel that there is danger to be apprehended from the influx of the very class which I include in my amendment. If the gentleman will permit my amendment to go with his proposition, so that the whole question may be considered, I am perfectly willing to have it go to the committee. I did not intend, however, to say or do anything to bring up a discussion of this matter at this time. I simply desired to get the whole matter before the committee.

Mr. CLARKE. If the incorporation of the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Abbott) into the organic law of the State of Maryland will effect what he desires, I may possibly vote for it. But as I think that has become a matter to be determined by the sword rather than by the Legislature, I am perfectly willing to leave it to be determined